

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PEKING 01202 150548Z
ACTION EA-09

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DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJ: PRC GRAIN CROP CONDITIONS

REF: (A) PEKING 1063; (B) PEKING 1089

1. USLO TRAVELERS MADE FOLLOWING OBSERVATIONS ON WHEAT CROP ALONG RAILROADS IN PROVINCES OF KIANGSU, CHEKIANG, ANHEWI, SHANTUNG, SHANSI, SHENSI, HONAN, AND HOPEI DURING THE FIRST TEN DAYS OF JUNE. RAINS THROUGHOUT AREA HAVE IMPROVED PROSPECTS FOR WHEAT CROP, AND PRC AGRICULTURE OFFICIALS ARE REPORTED MUCH RELIEVED AT FAVORABLE TURN OF EVENTS.

2. NORTHERN CHEKIANG JUNE 5 WHEAT HARVES ALMOST COMPLETE. IN SHANGHAI AND SOUTHERN AND CENTRAL KIANGSU WHEAT WAS TALL, IN UNIFORM STANDS WITH LARGE HEADS. HARVEST ACTIVELY UNDER WAY AND TRANSPLANTING OF RICE HAS

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BEGUN IN SOME AREAS. IN ANHWEI WHEAT GOOD, UNIFORM WITH FULL HEADS BUT NOT SO GOOD AA FARTHER SOUTH. IN SOME AREAS CORN WAS ABOUT SIX INCHES HIGH. IN SOUTHERN SHANTUNG AND KIANGSU NORTH OF HSUCHOW IRRIGATED WHEAT WAS IN GOOD CONDITION AND HARVEST HAD APPARENTLY JUST BEGUN. IN UNIRRIGATED FIELDS, HOWEVER, CROPS WERE UNEVEN, SHOWED DISTINCT EFFECT

OF EARLIER DROUGHT.

3. IN SIAN JUNE 4-7, THE HARVEST WAS ONE-THIRD TO ONE HALF COMPLETED. WHEAT WAS UNIFORM, TALL AND WITH FULL HEADS. INTERPLANTED CORN AND COTTON WAS WELL GROWN AND RICE TRANSPLANTING WAS BEGINNING. NEAR LOYANG JUNE 7-9, THE HARVEST WAS ONE HALF TO TWO THIRDS COMPLETE AND FIELDS WERE INTERPLANTED WITH COTTON AND CORN. WHEAT WAS GENERALLY GOOD WHERE IRRIGATED BUT UNIRRIGATED FIELDS SHOWED DAMAGE FROM LACK OF WATER. IN NORTHERN HONAN AND SOUTHERN HOPEI WHEAT HARVEST WAS NEARLY COMPLETE BY JUNE 9 AND CROP GENERALLY GOOD. AT TACHAI IN CENTRAL SHANSI WHEAT CROP ALSO LOOKED GOOD.

4. AROUND PEKING WHEAT IS MUCH IMPROVED BY RECENT RAINS BUT INADEQUATELY IRRIGATED FIELDS WILL HAVE LOW YIELDS. HARVEST BEGAN ABOUT JUNE 12 IN PEKING AREA. RICE TRANSPLANTING IN FIELDS NOT PLANTED TO WHEAT IS ALMOST COMPLETED, AND INTERPLANTED CORN AND COTTON IS WELL GROWN.

6. CANADIANS TELLS US THAT SPRING WHEAT IN NORTHERN HOPEI AND NORTHERN SHANSI JUNE 8-10 LOOKED GOOD WHERE IRRIGATED, BUT THAT UNIRRIGATED FIELDS, PERHAPS ONE THIRD OF THE FIELDS IN THE TATUN AREA, HAD JUST BEGUN TO SPROUT AND WERE PROBABLY TOO LATE TO PRODUCE A CROP.

6. ONE FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL EXPERT TELLS US THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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"CHINESE WERE REALLY SCARED" ABOUT WHEAT CROP UNTIL MAY RAINS BROKE DROUGHT. TACHAI BRIGADE VICE CHAIRMAN GAVE SIMILAR STORY TO VISITING CANADIANS.

THOMAS

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